

Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



**1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, Arkansas 71964**

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: August 7, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m. by Jerry Shields, Chairman

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Derick Walker, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Jason Mothershed, Facility Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Bill Barnes
Robert Cavanaugh	Rick Stokes	Jerry Williams
Jerry Shields	Jo West Taylor	Phillip Carr
Bruce Engstrom	Dan Watson	

Announcements: None.

Minutes: Al G. moved to approve the minutes, Bruce E. seconded. Minutes approved with correction made.

Corps of Engineers Report (USACE):

- Stacy S. reported work in ongoing with installation of the new fee vault kiosks. This will ensure Lake Ouachita will be in compliance with new fee collection requirements. Derick W. showed pictures of the finished product at Spillway Boat Ramp.
- Stacy S. reported the timber sale at Tompkins Bend Boat Ramp was completed. This will expand the Boat Ramp parking by approximately 15 parking spaces. Work still to be done is stump removal and grating of the area to lay gravel. Parking blocks will also be added to show delineation of the parking spaces.
- Stacy S. reported sign installations around the lake are ongoing to replace old and worn out signs.
- Stacy S. reported drainage work around water plants are ongoing to ensure proper runoff in dispersed.

- Stacy S. reported future campsite rehab work at Brady Mountain Campground. If funds allow, campsites 17-27 will be rehabbed this coming offseason once the park closes on October 1.
- Stacy S. reported the Tompkins Bend Boat Ramp LED light has been installed and the maintenance team will be installing LED lights in various comfort stations.
- Stacy S. reported that Ranger Cell Phones have been ordered and signs will be made for Trash Bag Dispensers to report if a dispenser is out of bags. A visitor will be able to report this, via text, to the Ranger Cell Phone.
- Stacy S. reported that he made contact with Real Estate section in Vicksburg in regards to the Denby Bay Bridge. They are making contact with the easement lease to see if it is an active easements still and inform them they need to keep the right-a-way clean. Jerry S. noted he wanted to know when they were going to clear the area so he could mark the red bud trees to prevent them from being cut.
- Al G. asked if the wildlife biologist had been monitoring the Hydrilla in the lake. He had received reports it is starting to make a comeback.

Joplin Campground Bridge: No update from Jerry W.

Trash Bag Dispensers: Tom B. noted another shipment of bags were ordered and delivered to Lake Ouachita. He wanted the group to find additional sources for donated trash bags. Bill B. stated he would contact Keep Arkansas Beautiful and Phillip C. would contact SAMS to inquire.

- Jerry S. wants to seek expanding this program to other USACE lakes.
- Jo W. wants to get the article in the Water's Edge.
- Stacy S. stated he will get this program out on the USACE NRM Gateway.

Donation Boxes: Rick S. reported \$48.67 was collected, but hasn't been deposited yet.

Campground Maps: Jerry S. noted that Arnie H. (not present) asked him to inform group that he requests to remove this items from future agendas since he hasn't heard anything from USACE.

LOViT Update: Al G. and Robert C. reported some tree removal had been completed at various locations on the trail. Bill B. asked if the IMBA Trail Specialty crew Sponsored by the Walton Family Foundation had any plans of doing work this Fall. Robert C. noted they normally always do, but the exact date is always unknown.

Congressional Solicitation Letters: Rick S. stated he only received comments from Arnie H. Jerry S. and Robert C. wants to sign the letters as a committee, "we" and not as "I". Jerry S. noted we should approach them about funding on a flat line budget.

FOLO Update: Jerry S.-Financial Report- \$78,400 in Total Assets.

- Al G. gave update on Signs Grant stating (30) of the (250) signs are in; (220) are on backorder. The Ouachita and Womble Trails will be the first trails they start on. The check value for the Walton Family Foundation grant was \$4,065.00.
- Jerry Shields reported a finding on the Denby Bay Watchable Wildlife Trail. He stated many boards and stringers were rotting. USACE is doing an inspection. He talked to Tru Value in Mt. Ida about the YellaWood product. On Wednesday, August 9th, a representative will meet LOCFC members and USACE representatives to determine course of action.

Way Forward Committee: Jo W. stated her sub-group met and determined they want to support USACE. She stated LOCFC needs congressional support and they will get behind the letter Rick S. drafted.

- Arnie H., Bill B. and Jo W. will attend the ORVA meeting on August 24th and 25th. They want to speak with congressional leaders with their point paper they draft.
- Jerry S. expressed concerns with supporting the Wounded Warrior Program. He noted the percentages of donations to administrative costs was low and he felt LOCFC should not support this cause. He has concerns with the leadership of this program and where the donations actually go.

New Business: Bruce E. wanted LOCFC to know he really enjoyed doing the surveys. Jerry S. was surprised by what visitors were saying, in a good way.

- Tom B. wants to know when USACE will be doing fish shelter work. He wants to assist.

Adjournment: Jerry S. moved to adjourn, and Al G. seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 6:50 P.M.